

This sort by its nasal organ, very conspicuous, composed of one opening on each side, being a simple circular cavity, would enter the late Bibron's genus *Monotretus*.

TETRODON STAIGERI.

Rather large spines cover the body, except the snout, and stopping just before the insertion of the dorsal fin, leaving all the posterior part naked; these spines are numerous, but rather distant over from the other, and about one line long; those of the upper part of the body have three roots, and those of the belly four; the length of the orbit contained twice and a-half in the interorbital space which is convex; length of the caudal fin equal to its distance to the posterior edge of the dorsal. The upper part of the body is of a dark slaty colour, with rounded black irregularly placed spots; the lower part is white, a large obscure spot at the base of the pectorals.

The specimen is not four inches; it comes from the Brisbane River, where Mr. Staiger says it is called *Toad Fish*.

This sort is very nearly allied to *T. hispidus*, and comes in the same division, but is very distinct by its spines being much longer and set considerably more apart.

Description of a new species of *Ianthœnas*, from the Duke of York Islands.

By E. P. RAMSAY, F. L. S., &c. &c.

IANTHÆNAS PALLIDICEPS, *sp. nov.*

Like *I. metallicus*, *Temm.*, but having the whole of the head and throat white.

The whole of the head and throat white, with a faint opaline rosy tint in certain lights; the quills of the wings and tail, the primary-coverts above, the under wing-coverts, outer series of the under tail-coverts, slaty black; the neck, and all the upper and under surface of the body, upper tail- and wing-coverts, slaty black at the base but broadly margined at the tips of the

feathers, with a rich opaline rosy tint, greenish in reflected lights. The basal portion of the bill, bare space round the eye, and the cere red; tip of the bill horn yellow; legs and feet red; claws yellow at the base, brownish at the tip.

Total length 16 inches; wing 9 inches, tail 5 inches, tarsus 1.1 inches, mid-toe 1.6 inches, its claw 0.5 inch, hind-toe 0.75 inch, its claw 0.4 inch, bill from forehead 1.4 inches, from gape 1.5 inches, from cere 0.75 inch.

This beautiful species, previously referred to in my remarks on the Rev. Mr. G. Brown's collection of Birds from New Ireland, &c.; comes close to *Ianthanas metalica* of Temmink. The specimen is not in quite full plumage, having a few of the old feathers on the head and throat and nape, showing that the feathers on these parts were previously dark brown with white tips; the new feathers are altogether white (except at the extreme base) and have a delicate opaline rosy tint, in certain lights.

This specimen was the only one obtained and comes from the Duke of York Islands.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1877.

W. J. STEPHENS, ESQ., M.A., President, in the Chair.

VISITOR PRESENT.

Dr. HECTOR, F.R.S., &c., Wellington, New Zealand.

MEMBER ELECTED.

Dr. Clive Belisario.

DONATIONS.

On some New Tasmanian Shells, and on a New Reversed Tasmanian Helix, by the Rev. J. E. TENISON-WOODS, F.G.S.

Report of the South Australian Institute, by the Institute.

Geological Survey of New Zealand, 73-74, 74-76, 76-77.

And Chromolithograph of Colorado Beetle, by Dr. HECTOR, of the Colonial Museum, Wellington, N.Z.